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Victoria Street Newz

November 2007

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Vol. 4 No. 8

Lest we forget – WE SAID NO NUKES!

Nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels ... a disaster in waiting.

by Joan Russow

NEVER AGAIN: CIRCULATING AND BERTHING OF US NUCLEAR POWERED OR NUCLEAR ARMS CAPABLE VESSELS.

The intrusion into Canadian waters by U.S. nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels is a provocative display of militarism, and contravenes obligations to prevent disasters, commitments to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, and a decision by the International Court of Justice.

PROVOCATIVE DISPLAY OF MILITARISM

The United States continues to adhere to its policy of neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear arms aboard its nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels. When these vessels enter the Harbour of Greater Victoria or when they participate in war games and exercises such as Exercise Trident Fury, the Citizens of the Greater Victoria are living under the threat of a potential nuclear accident not only from the release of radiation from the nuclear powering of the vessel but also from the possibility of the vessel being nuclear armed.

This possibility of these vessels being nuclear armed defies a long- term commitment made in Stockholm in 1972 to eliminate the production of weapons of mass destruction:

> "....to reach prompt agreement in the relevant international organs on the elimination and complete destruction of such weapons" (UNCHE, 1972, Principle 26)

and more specifically an obligation under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty:

> Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.

REVISING CANADIAN POLICY

The Vancouver Island Peace Institute is going to be set up to continue the work of the Vancouver Island Peace Society. The VIP society launched a court case

photo: Joan and the Raging Grannies' information rally, Oct 07

story con't on page 3

Nuke Transportation Story Has Explosive Implications

by Robert Stormer

With an introduction from Shelley Bluejay Pierce, a mixed-blood native woman of Lakota, Cree, and Irish heritage, living in Montana:

Recently, I was standing on my back deck here on top of my mountain....saying loads of prayers that FINALLY my sweet little Grandson would be well enough to come home out of the hospital, and I hear an enormous plane flying close and VERY low. I look up and watch this huge B-52 fly right over me....flying so low it scared my horses! I remember getting goosebumps and feeling really, REALLY uncomfortable about this B-52 flying in a very odd location.

The next morning, I watched the headline news and it showed the reason. I saw a huge B-52 flying over my head! AND, the damned thing was loaded with live NUCLEAR WARHEADS!!!!!!!!

I have put requests into the D.C. office of the Air Force to get the graphic of the flightplan that CNN used this morning so that I have the documentation that this fully loaded nuclear B-52 flew all the way through Montana before turning and heading down to Louisiana. The commentary from the military is frightening...."We are looking into this but at no time were the warheads in danger of going off because of all our secondary protection measures..."

Yeah, well, big deal!!! They DID NOT mention the risk the military placed all of us in with the potential CRASH of a B-52 loaded with Nukes! Somehow, they conveniently left THAT part out!! Read this media report:

Nuke Transportation Story Has Explosive Implications

by Robert Stormer

Last month, six W80-1 nuclear-armed AGM-129 advanced cruise missiles were flown from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., to Barksdale AFB in Louisiana and sat on the tarmac for 10 hours undetected.

Press reports initially cited the Air Force mistake of flying nuclear weapons over the United States in violation of Air Force standing orders and international treaties, while completely missing the more important major issues, such as how

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... but not to the satisfaction of Victoria's 9/11 Truth Movement - pg 6.

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Vancouver's Korky Day suggests a General Strike against homelessness - pg 8.

About Street Newz

"Building Bridges within our Downtown Community"

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Distribution Coordinator: John Chomyn

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Contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz coalition and vendors, by reading information that informs you directly about poverty issues, and by working for progressive, peaceful, non-violent change.

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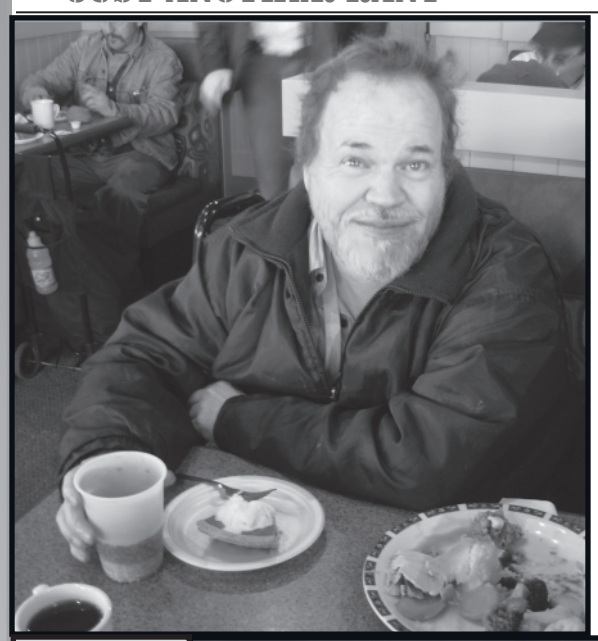
JUST ANOTHER RANT

by Janine Bandcroft



Thanksgiving's a big weekend for street people. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, people are pretty much guaranteed a full stomach (though I've heard it's tough to go hungry in Victoria, thanks to all the good people filling the gaps the government and its economic policies have created - is it true they've got a surplus in the millions while so many are dying on the streets?). In contrast to the fish fertilizer street folk sometimes find scattered on their favourite sleeping places, these two holidays offer some hope and love and inspiration.

I dunno what's up with the fish fertilizer thing (it's apparently scattered on top of the earth rather than mixed into it, often in remote places deep in the bush) but it's only one of the horrible stories I've heard. Being tossed into the drunk tank naked with no blanket is another, and then there's the mysterious disappearance of binners' bicycles and carts.

One friend found himself in the hospital this summer, after being beat up in a park. He was assured his bike and cart (a gift from Tony's Trailers) were safely stored while he recovered. But when he was released and attempted to find his property, which he uses to reclaim recyclables that would otherwise add to the mess at the landfill, my friend was told the bike and cart weren't there. After several attempts through the summer, with various people phoning the hospital on my friend's behalf, I decided to ask a favour from someone I know who works there. A few days later I received an email from Tony saying "Success! Security at the Royal Jubilee Hospital has finally located [the] bike, trailer and effects. They initially said they could not find it but one security officer went carefully through the log and found a reference to the bike etc. It is indeed at the Eric Martin Pavilion in the basement." There's money in them thar cans, and since municipal governments have outsourced recycling, stories of missing bikes and carts seem fairly common. Is there a connection? Who knows.

Top: Steve Stewart, at Gordie Dodd's 9th annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Centre: Banquet hosted by VIDEA, Kairos, Faith In Action, Parners for Prosperity, Maxwell International Baha'i shcool and the BCCIC. Right: Lee Hamer, folk musician, at the Upper Room

Of course it's important to take everything one reads and hears with a grain of salt. The fish fertilizer and other stories, I trust, are real. The motives are anybody's guess. Perhaps, while our police chief is under investigation (the 'coincidental' break-in at his lawyer's office notwithstanding), someone can ask some tough questions on the street community's behalf.

OPINION

Tre Arrow's Bow to Justice

by Tavis W. Dodds

My first impression of Tre Arrow is that prison is harder on some people than others; his fingernails have hardly grown back after having fasted for nearly two months, his frame seems whittled away from how he looks in the video footage of him on the tiny ledge of a building he scaled and occupied for several days. His eyes are slightly bloodshot and more protruded than I'd seen in photographs, but even on this first impression I can tell immediately from his eyes that they have not yet broken his spirit, his defiance against injustice and impression, even here in Victoria BC's Wilkinson Road Penitentiary.

That Tre should starve nearly three years in a Canadian prison while fighting extradition to the US is due, in part, to his dedication to a whole-foods diet in which no food is eaten when any plant or animal was harmed in the production of the food, which leaves only fruits and some vegetables like leafy greens gathered from the outside of the plant. At one point in which Tre's diet threatened to kill him, doctors made the unprecedented demand that Corrections Canada allow Tre to have the food that he needs. Since that point Tre's supporters have been allowed to bring food in to the prison. Tre leans over into the plexi-glass that separates us in our little visiting cage and says into his phone "If you do one thing for my campaign and one thing only, pick figs." And so I find myself picking figs and plums from trees in Goldstream Park, musing about the bizarre injustices in the case of Tre Arrow versus imperialist anti-terrorism.

Once described by Rolling Stone Magazine as "the rock star of environmental activism," Tre spent several weeks at the top of the FBI's most wanted due to accusations that he was involved in blowing up two logging trucks, a charge he denies but for which he is facing a life sentence if US district attorneys have their way. The only evidence against Tre is the testimony of two others charged with the damage to the trucks. The three accused were subjected to 24 hour FBI interrogations and the other two accused had their sentences reduced by over 80 percent after the testimonies were made against Tre.

While I was waiting to get into the prison I asked to speak to the prison chaplain who told me that there was no way that he could imagine that Tre could be guilty of the crimes he's accused of. "His supporters," he told me, "consider him a political prisoner."

Few are aware that the when the US enacted its Patriot Act it was used first against US citizens, so-called "domestic terrorists" or "Eco-terrorists," namely those protesting against logging of old growth trees in Oregon's rain forests. It is a piece of US history that has come to be referred to as The Green Scare. Many of those accused with terrorism fled from authorities and have been turning up all over the continent ever since.

Tre fled to Canada. He spent time in PEI and saw more of Canada than many Canadians ever do, finally settling in BC. After evading the FBI for years, Tre was apprehended by a Canadian Tire security guard after he tried to steal bolt cutters to get food out of a locked dumpster. The security guard collected a $40 000 US reward from the FBI.

Picking fruit may seem to be a feeble action against such a single minded behemoth as today's US military industrial complex. Every soldier fleeing US imperialism has so far been refused sanctuary in Canada, a move that ignores our heritage of having welcomed draft dodgers during the Vietnam war. When Mark Emery was arrested for selling mail order seeds to Americans he was arrested in Canada by US agents. All these political prisoners must fight legal battles in a biased court and Canadians are left with a nagging question: just how much of Canadian sovereignty is a myth?

When I return home with my boxes of figs and plums I call the number of the Tre Arrow defense team and they tell me to leave the fruit outside my house the next morning. A hippie looking guy on a bicycle with a trailer comes by and loads the fruit onto his heaping stack of fruit on its way to jail. It's almost as if those trees are reaching through the bars, the roots slowly growing through the walls, slow cracks in the foundation of oppression.

Tavis has been floating back and forth across Canada for 5 years of solidarity with the homeless, as both a homeless person and a homeless activist. His work has appeared in Monday Magazine, The Christian Radical, and AlbertaViews Magazine, and he is a regular contributer to The Republic of East Vancouver Newspaper.

Nuclear capable vessels ... a disaster in waiting

...con't from page 1

in 1991 calling for an environmental assessment review under the EARP guidelines of nuclear powered and nuclear capable vessels in the urban port of Greater Victoria. This case was launched in 1991, with over 800 pages of affidavits from experts, and citizens.

It was argued that in 1991 the Federal Conservative government had issued an Order in Council to bypass the government requirement to carry out an environmental assessment review.

The Liberal government was in power when the case was finally heard and the judge decided in favour of Cabinet Royal Prerogative.

In 1993, the NDP was in power provincially, there was a 50 to 1 vote in support of the court case, and 8 out of 10 of the municipalities- seven unanimously supported the case including all Greater Victoria Members of Parliament and many local peace and environmental organizations.

The judgment of the Federal Court was made over a year later. The Court held that the bypassing of the Environmental Assessment Review Process program was legitimate because of the principle of 'Royal Prerogative' of cabinet.

Through Access to information, the full documentation of the court case has been obtained, and new legal means for preventing further circulating and berthing of nuclear vessels will be pursued.

The current Canadian Conservative government has increased the number of Exercises with these nuclear powered vessels, and nuclear arms capable vessels.

ELIMINATING A THREAT TO HUMANITARIAN LAW (ICJ DECISION)

At this time in History, where most of the elected representatives of the US are not adverse to a strategic strike on Iran's nuclear facilities and to the nuclear fall-out of such an strike, the circulation of these nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels are yet another potential provocation, and are a blatant display of the US reluctance to abide by international law.

In the 1983 UN General Assembly resolution, "Condemnation of Nuclear War," governments condemned unconditionally: "nuclear war as being contrary to human conscience and reason, as the most monstrous crime against peoples and as a violation of the foremost human right - the right to life."

This recognition was affirmed in July 8, 1996 decision of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. The Court handed down a decision that the use or the threat to use nuclear weapons was contrary to international humanitarian law.

The provocative circulation and berthing of U.S. nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels, defies this ruling

PREVENTING DISASTER

Under the Convention on Natural Disasters (1994), governments enlarged the concept of natural disaster prevention to include Na-techs technological disasters and placed an emphasis on the imperative of developing:

" a global culture of prevention as an essential component of an integrated approach to disaster reduction." And they acknowledged that "Disaster response alone is not sufficient, as it yields only temporary results at a very high cost. We have followed this limited approach for too long ... Prevention contributes to lasting improvement in safety and is essential to integrated disaster management."

The Convention also affirmed the commitment to developing Disaster prevention is also closely linked to the precautionary principle which reads: ***where there is a threat to the environment, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent the threat.***

There are few activities that have the potential of a disaster more than the berthing of nuclear powered and nuclear-arms capable vessels in an urban harbour.

PROMOTING TRUE SECURITY

It is time to dispel the myth that Canada's international reputation depends on Canada's establishing a strong military, and increased integration with the US. If Canada is to have a solid international reputation, it has to cease being compliant to US policy, and to institute an independent common security national policy.

The circulation of US nuclear powered vessels, along with the maintenance of over 700 international US military bases around the world, the adoption of the policy of "preventive" aggression, the establishment of Ballistic missile defence all contribute to a US-led international "insecurity" policy. Through lobbying the US to abandon its policies and actions that contribute to global insecurity, through effectively contributing to the implementing of an international/national policy that supports multilateralism, and the rule of international law, through promoting the delegitimization of war and reallocating military expense to further common security, Canada will ensure greater national security. Also, the current negotiations on the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) with the United States and Mexico will contribute neither to true security nor true prosperity.

Originally published at www.PEJ.org, reprinted with permission.

Joan Russow worked in the early 1990s on the Vancouver Island Peace Society Court case. She initiated the Global Compliance Research Project which monitors government compliance with international obligations related to peace, environment, social justice and human rights. You can write to Joan at jrussow@gmail.com.

Nuke Transport Implications

...con't from page 1

six nuclear cruise missiles got loose to begin with.

Opinion columns and editorials appeared in America's newspapers, some blasting the Air Force for flying nukes over the U.S. and some defending the Air Force procedure. None of the news reports focused on the real questions of our nuclear security.

Let me be very clear here: We are not talking about paintball cartridges or pellet gun ammo. We are talking nuclear weapons.

There is a strict chain of custody for all such weapons. Nuclear weapons handling is spelled out in great detail in Air Force regulations, to the credit of that service. Every person who orders the movement of these weapons, handles them, breaks seals or moves any nuclear weapon must sign off for tracking purposes.

Two armed munitions specialists are required to work as a team with all nuclear weapons. All individuals working with nuclear weapons must meet very strict security standards and be tested for loyalty — this is known as a "Personnel Reliability Program." They work in restricted areas within eyeshot of one another and are reviewed constantly.

All security forces assigned are authorized to use deadly force to protect the weapons from any threat. Nor does anyone quickly move a 1-ton cruise missile — or forget about six of them, as reported by some news outlets, especially cruise missiles loaded with high explosives.

The United States also does not transport nuclear weapons meant for elimination attached to their launch vehicles under the wings of a combat aircraft. The procedure is to separate the warhead from the missile, encase the warhead and transport it by military cargo aircraft to a repository — not an operational bomber base that just happens to be the staging area for Middle Eastern operations.

Yes, we still do fly nuclear warheads over the United States today. We also drive them over land as well. That's not the point.

This is about how six nuclear advanced cruise missiles got out of their bunkers and onto a combat aircraft without notice of the wing commander, squadron commander, munitions maintenance squadron (MMS), the B-52H's crew chief and command pilot and onto another Air Force base tarmac without notice of that air base's chain of command — for 10 hours.

It is time that we got to the bottom of it through a comprehensive investigation. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has asked Larry Welch, a former Air Force chief of staff, to lead an independent inquiry into the implications of the incident. That is in addition to the existing Air Force investigation headed by Maj. Gen. Douglas Raaberg, director of air and space operations at Air Combat Command, which is responsible for all Air Force bombers and fighters.

The questions that must be answered:

1. Why, and for what ostensible purpose, were these nuclear weapons taken to Barksdale?
2. How long was it before the error was discovered?
3. How many mistakes and errors were made, and how many needed to be made, for this to happen?
4. How many and which security protocols were overlooked?
5. How many and which safety procedures were bypassed or ignored?
6. How many other nuclear command and control non-observations of procedure have there been?
7. What is Congress going to do to better oversee U.S. nuclear command and control?
8. How does this incident relate to concern for reliability of control over nuclear weapons and nuclear materials in Russia, Pakistan and elsewhere?
9. Does the Bush administration, as some news reports suggest, have plans to attack Iran with nuclear weapons?
10. If this was an accident, have we degraded our military to a point where we are now making critical mistakes with our nuclear arsenal? If so, how do we correct this?

Yes, heads must roll and careers will end. But let's make sure that this includes the ranks from general officers to noncommissioned ones.

Or is this to be the Air Force version of the Abu Ghraib investigation?

Robert Stormer of Chicago is a retired lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserve, serving with the Navy's Supervisor of Salvage, and was a specialist in weapons retrieval. He is a marine engineer and marine salvage specialist.

© Originally Published on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas) - www.star-telegram.com/245/story/259201.html - and reprinted with permission.

At a 20th Granniversary, Raging Grannies from Salt Spring, Port Townsend, and Seattle joined Victoria's founding Grannies to sing and share stories and raise funds for the newly established Welcome House, helping immigrant women & their families.

Pope Benedict XVI urges better care of the planet

Dear Madam,

Enclosed is a copy of the Pope's message on sustainable practises for the younger generation dealing with climate change. Since the health of the world and environment is neither a political nor a religious matter per se, this announcement, which was scarcely reported in the news, is ground breaking and earth shattering to say the least. This pronouncement is significant because it can mobilize both Catholics and non-Catholics alike to take action against climate change and further destruction to our environment. Thank you for your kind attention, and keep up the good work!

Yours truly,
Diana Smardon

editor's note: Thanks for the information, Diana. The original article is copyrighted so I can't reprint it without permission. It's available online at ap.lancasteronline.com/4/pope_youth. If the Pope can encourage people to live simply - carry travel mugs, use recycled paper, shop locally, consider hemp and organic alternatives, reduce (and eventually eliminate) consumption of meat, and get out of their cars once in a while, maybe the earth will allow us to continue to exist here for a while longer.

6 Billion and Counting .....

According to the U.S. Census bureau's population clock, as of October 4, 2007, there were an estimated 6,622,472,853 people needing enough money to buy food, clothes, housing, cars and so forth. But in his 1946 essay "In Front of Your Nose," George Orwell pointed out that the birthrate is "highest among the worst-paid groups." In fact, according to professors Joseph Hobbs and Christopher L. Salter, " wealthier people have fewer children" ("Essentials Of World Regional Geography," 2006).

So, paradoxically, if the world is overpopulated because people living in poverty are having too many children, then the solution is for wealthy people to "shop till they drop." After all, in his 1776 economic treatise "The Wealth of Nations," the Scottish moral philosopher Adam Smith wrote, "Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production... The maxim is so perfectly self-evident, that it would be absurd to attempt to prove it."

In his just resent book "On The Wealth of Nations," America journalist P.J. O'Rourke wrote, "Smith illuminated the mystery of economics in one flash: 'Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production.' There is no mystery. Smith took the 'meta' out of the 'physics.' Economics is our livelihood and just that." In fact, famed management guru Peter Drucker is often quoted by business leaders for saying, "The sole purpose of a business is to create a customer."

In the above-mentioned essay, Orwell also wrote, "The point is that we are all capable of believing things which we 'know' to be untrue, and then, when we are finally proved wrong, impudently twisting the facts so as to show that we were right."

Orwell went on to say, "To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle." For example, a FOX News story states, "Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim is the world's richest man, worth an estimated $67.8 billion, after overtaking Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates." Or as the American magician and comedy writer Robert Orben put it: "Every day I get up and look through the Forbes magazine's list of the richest people in America. If I'm not there, I go to work."

In other words, we'll know that we're sincere about "saving the planet from over-population and over-consumption" when we buy magazines where they publish lists of "The World's Poorest People" praising them to the high heavens for consuming the smallest number of goods and services, and, therefore, having the smallest ecological footprints.

Sincerely,

Livable Income For Everyone Livable Income For Everyone (livableincome.org) ~ L I F E ~ is an organization started in 2003 to promote the implementation of universal Guaranteed Livable Income (G L I) in every country in the world.

Local artist Deryk Houston
is organizing an Artist Studio Tour for Fernwood, June 08.

To participate, or for more information, contact Deryk at dhouston@coastnet.com or 250-884-6828 or check his website at coastnet.com/dhouston

Grow Up and Parent

by cyann ray

Close the door. Turn off the lights. Do your homework. Put things back where you got them. Say please and thank you. Don't waste food. Respect your elders. Look both ways before crossing. Don't litter. Treat others the way you wish to be treated. Be nice to animals. Share your toys...

Some may view this as nagging. I call it effective parenting. With so much crime, poverty, addiction and despair saturating our communities, social agencies and media sources are always looking for and discussing possible solutions. I've got one. Let's go back to those simple rules for raising kids and put an end to this deteriorating pattern.

I'm as liberal-minded as any aging boomer/hippy but parenting is the single most important job on the planet and there is little room for that mamby-pamby, weak-willed, "oh just let them be free to express themselves" attitude. Children need boundaries and discipline as much as food and shelter.

During the past twenty-five years it's been nearly impossible not to notice the widespread erosion of parental discipline and the resulting decay of our youth. And as those poorly parented children become parents themselves, the problem increases exponentially. It's time to examine what the youth today are missing and why so many parents have let go of the reins.

Education and economic stability are often seen as essential ingredients for a "successful" (functional) existence and ideally, parenthood should not be considered until these goals have been achieved. That being said, I know that some financially challenged high school drop-outs are quite capable of becoming effective parents. (I know this because I was one...a single one at that!). And I also know that being professional, educated and financially secure in no way guarantees that your children will grow into fine adults, completely unscathed.

The fact is, learning right from wrong has nothing to do with money. It costs nothing to teach kids basic human principles about compassion & self-respect (love your neighbour, love yourself), conservation (don't waste resources) and social responsibility (don't steal, vandalize or kill). And while education certainly contributes to maturity and proper social conduct, those all-important formative years at home are where the lessons begin.

"Tabula rosa" roughly translates into "blank slate" and most human behaviour specialists believe infants enter the world in this state. This implies that parents/caregivers and the wider social & physical environment are instrumental in shaping a child's development.

I grew up with all those aforementioned aphorisms and subsequently have become an adult who, amongst other things, conserves resources and looks both ways before crossing the street. More importantly, I've reproduced this responsible behaviour in my child. Determined to do right by her, I actually added about a hundred more rules concerning food, clothes and political correctness. As a result I'd say that she was a much improved version of myself. Ideally, this should be every parents' mission.

Something is going awry though. Somewhere along the line parents have become reluctant to preach such rules to their kids. Perhaps they're afraid of sounding like a broken record or being too militant. Or maybe they embrace liberal ideas about freedom of expression and prefer to be a buddy to their child rather than their boss. Another possible explanation for this weakening command is absence of authority. With childcare and daycare and after school extra curricular activites and babysitters, children may lose sight of who's in charge and just tune out. Or they've been given too much independence too soon without the proper tools for self-discipline. And let's not overlook the grand pooh-ba of influences: capitalism. Our profit-driven, keep up with the Jones' at all costs culture has created generations of over-stressed, over-achievers that simply do not have the time to adequately supervise and discipline their children. These busy parents want what little time they spend with their children to be positive and fun, not full of rules.

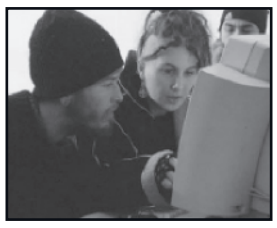
This past summer I witnessed two young boys about 7 & 9 chasing a peacock in Beacon Hill Park. When the older one picked up a stick, I had to intervene. I turned around and got off my bike, visually scanning the area for some adult supervision. Finding none, I spoke up sternly: "How would YOU like it if someone was chasing you with a big stick?" The weapon was dropped and the boys were wide-eyed and silent.

This is not an illustration of "bad" kids, but rather of ineffective parenting. Just as childhood obesity may now be seen as a health issue, but it originated from faulty parenting ... blank slate, remember? Kids are not born craving junkfood. Their parents must provide it for them.

I believe we are overdue in teaching effective parenting skills within an academic arena, beginning at a primary level. Learning sports and culture are fine but if we keep producing troubled kids, it won't matter that they can speak a second language or kick a ball. What matters is that we produce healthy, socially conscious, kind-hearted youth capable of improving things by being great parents of our future generations.

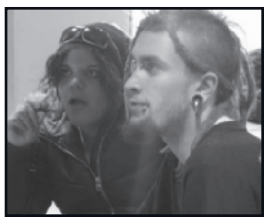
"Everyone has the right to free speech as guaranteed by our Charter of Freedoms. Our fight is people's right to be heard!"
Gadget - Outreach Worker – Montreal

Homeless Nation's Victoria Outreach Workers



Rose & Richard
will be at:

DOWNTOWN ACTIVITY CENTER
755 Pandora
WEDNESDAYS
between 1:30-3:00 pm

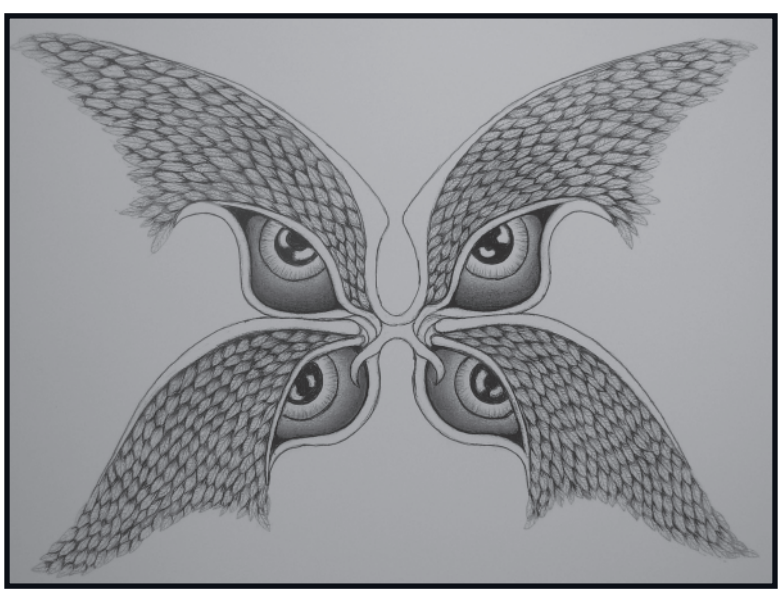


INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP
• Take a tour of the Homeless Nation website
• Learn to create your very own web page on the website
• ask questions regarding the website and how it works
• Get your own free e-mail address at homelessnation.org

HOW YOU CAN USE THE SITE * View testimonials of others living on the street and advocates for the cause. *Search and communicate with members on the site across Canada. * Keep your own blog, record videos, music and post photos, we'll provide the tools and technical help. * Find local help (counseling, shelter, food, legal-aid) in cities across Canada * Get the latest news from the street * Chat live with other members * Keep track of friends across the country

JOIN NOW! IT'S FREE!

You can contact Rose & Richard via voice mail: (250) 383-5144 ext 1100
www.homelessnation.org



"Grant me the eyes to see my destiny and the wings to reach my potential."

Original artwork by Street Newz vendor Sean Manley. Prints available at Isbow - 556A Pandora or Aces 'n Spades - Douglas @ Yates

For Seniors, By Seniors

Feeling pushed around?
Need some help fighting for your rights?

If you are a senior, there is a new service open to you -- the Seniors' Entitlement Service provided by the Greater Victoria Seniors and funded by Ottawa through its New Horizons program for seniors.

Trained volunteer seniors' advocates staff an office at the Blanshard Community Centre, 901 Kings Road, between Bay and Hillside, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to noon and 1 to 4 pm.

You can phone for an appointment: 388 7696.

The advocates include retired social workers who can help with health care, pensions and housing. SES also has links to legal experts and to a chain of similar offices being set up across B.C. to take on some of the problems once handled by the B.C. Seniors' Office, which was axed by the Liberals in 2001.

What can they do for you? Help you with problems or go to bat for you with officials who confuse, stall or dismiss you. They also have a library of information useful to seniors. With limited staff and resources, they cannot promise success, but they work on the premise that seniors have rights and are entitled to receive them and be treated with dignity.

And the service is completely free!

Also welcome are seniors who would like to take their training and join the staff in a challenging service. For this, phone Clara at 360 1608.

It's for seniors and it's free!

Concerning the Police ....

By Monique Dull

If you feel you've had a bad experience with a municipal police officer, you can complain. And not just to your best friends. In fact, some people have full-time jobs just to handle complaints by the public against the police. Sergeant Todd Wellman is one of them.

"We've tried to open up as many avenues as possible for people to bring us their concerns," says Wellman, an internal investigating officer on the Victoria police force. You can use e-mail through the police website; you can visit the station's front desk to get a Record of Complaint to fill out (a so-called "Form One"); you can write a letter to the chief, or you can send your letter or Form 1 directly to the office which oversees internal investigations for all municipal forces anyway: the BC Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner (OPCC).

According to Wellman, there are two kinds of complaints: ones about discreditable conduct, usually involving "an officer with attitude," foul language, or other unprofessional conduct; and complaints about abuse of authority, usually involving some kind of physical force perceived as unnecessary. Whether someone complains to the police force, or to the OPCC directly, all the complaints are overseen in the long run by the OPCC, a civilian supervisory body.

"The transparency of any internal investigation is extremely important," Wellman explains. "Every investigation we do internally is overseen by the OPCC." If there are lingering suspicions that a police force isn't being investigated properly, the public will lose trust in their own police as a group. Whether you bring your concerns to your municipal police force or to the OPCC, both offices will know about your complaint. If you file your complaint with the police force itself, their investigator will send a copy to the OPCC. If you file your complaint with the OPCC, they will send a copy to the police force in question. The offices link their files. Then, either way, the police force's internal investigation begins.

According to Joanna Van der Vlugt—senior administrative assistant of the OPCC--after her office sends an incoming complaint to the police force in question, the OPCC stays in touch with the investigator, who sends monthly updates to the OPCC. The final investigation report goes to the OPCC and to the police officer's Chief Constable. Looking at the evidence of the final report, the Chief then decides whether to accept the complaint, and whether or not to discipline the officer. If the complainant or the officer disagrees with the Chief's decision, the Police Complaints Commissioner—currently, lawyer Dirk Ryneveld--steps in to review the file. If the Commissioner finds the original investigation lacking, he can decide on a new investigation or a public hearing.

This all takes time--a lot of time, or what feels like a lot of time for the complainant and the officer, who are both waiting for a resolution. The formal process can last 6 months, plus (possibly) extra time for a new investigation or a public hearing.

Wellman, the internal investigating officer from the Victoria force, lays out another option for people who want to voice a complaint but mostly need to have a response from the officer. Most municipal forces offer either informal or formal mediation between the complainant and the officer. The informal mediation process is a meeting chaired by the internal investigator. The complainant can express the harm done to them and the officer can respond. This informal mediation process can be completed within 3 weeks. The formal mediation process involves an external mediator. At the end of either mediation process, the complainant has 10 days to decide whether or not to proceed with the formal complaint.

The OPCC—the civilian supervisory body--also stays aware of these mediation processes. As Wellman points out, mediation is only useful if the complainant has not felt pressured out of following the formal process.

Entering the police complaints process can feel daunting. Many problems civilians have with police fall into what feels like a grey zone and go unreported because the person doesn't want to use too heavy a hand with the officer. Van der Vlugt of the OPCC says it's often this middle ground that is really helped by the process:

"Sometimes, I'll get a call from a complainant, and they'll say, 'I don't want the officer to lose his job, but he just shouldn't have spoken to me like that.' And I can explain to them that by filing the complaint, and using the informal process, the two sides can come together. The officer can say where he was coming from, and the complainant can say where he or she was coming from, and the officer can apologize. Those are the kinds of coming together that I get job satisfaction from."

For municipal forces in BC:

Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner
3rd Floor - 756 Fort Street
PO Box 9895 STN PROV GOVT,
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9T8
Tel: (250) 356-7458: email: info@opcc.bc.ca

Individual local municipal forces:

Central Saanich Police Services: 1903 Mt. Newton X Rd. Saanichton, BC V0S 1M0 Telephone: (250) 652-4441

Oak Bay Police Department: 1703 Monterey Avenue, Vic., BC V8R 5V6, (250) 592-2424

Saanich Police Department:: 760 Vernon Avenue Vic., BC V8X 2W6; (250) 475-4321

Victoria Police Department: 850 Caledonia Avenue, Vic., BC V8T 5J8; (250) 995-7654

For complaints about the RCMP:

Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP: org@cpc-cpp.gc.ca; Toll Free: 1-800-665-6878; TTY: 1-866-432-5837

PBSC-UVic is a student organization that is not able to give legal advice. This article is intended as legal information only. Should you have a specific legal problem, it is advisable to consult a lawyer. Special thanks to Irene Faulkner of Underhill, Faulkner, Boies-Parker for her assistance. For more information on our organization, please visit: www.pbsc-uvic.ca.

Do you know your rights under the Canadian Charter? What about your rights as a tenant? Are you curious about how to file complaints against the police?

The UVic Chapter of Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) wants to help answer some of your questions about the law. PBSC volunteers will produce a monthly article providing information on a particular legal issue.

If you'd like to suggest a topic, please drop ideas off at Street Newz's mailbox at 1027 Pandora Ave. or email us at pbsc.articles@gmail.com.

NAOMI KLEIN: 9/11
Victoria writer comments on Naomi Klein Book Tour

by Peter Zaza

"Condemnation without investigation is the height of ignorance" - Einstein

I went to see Naomi Klein a few nights ago here in Victoria BC Canada. She was finishing up a book tour for her recently released "The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism" before heading abroad for the next stage of her promotional tour. In this excellent book Klein exposes how catastrophic events become extremely profitable for corporations while enabling governments to further an agenda of "disaster capitalism." As a speaker she brings together an aspect that at once encompasses her excellent research abilities while showing a personal warmth that enhances the impact of her arguments. I found her to be both very informative and engaging with the audience. She took a few questions afterwards and it was then I found myself questioning some of her views. The second speaker up to the microphone was a gentleman here in Victoria whom I happen to know named Hal Sisson.

Let me tell you something about Hal Sisson. This man is a noted author with 10 books published, he is a life-long social activist, spent 40 years as a lawyer, he's been a stand-up comic, and a few other vestments and layers I've yet to delve into. He's also 86 years old and a rare sort of individual who retains a sharp mental faculty despite their age. Most times I'm with him I forget that this icon is almost twice as old as myself. I'm heartened to think that it is possible for some of us to keep it so together despite the ravages of time, but usually it's about then I lose my thought and start looking for my keys only to find them in my own pocket. Hal is also a prominent member of the Victoria 9/11 Truth organization - amongst my friends in this group we share a quiet reverence for this man, as well as an appreciation for being able to benefit from his wisdom and experience.

Hal Sisson's question was, "In view of your remarks relating to events which create economic emergencies and subsequent capitalistic opportunities and predations - disaster capitalism - do you have any comment or opinion in regard to the fact that many of them may well be covert false-flag operations by rogue elements of western government or intelligence agencies - events such as 9/11, the Gulf of Tonkin or the Madrid and British bombings?" This was exactly what I kept thinking about all evening while she described events like Katrina, the tsunami that devastated the coasts of Southeast Asia, or the fires in Greece. In many instances governments will clearly manipulate people's misfortune to push through repressive laws and gross examples of economic opportunism after such events, but I was also interested in her thoughts on how some of these events are purposely created within the Hegelian dialectic. Although she is clearly willing to unveil post 9/11 misdeeds such as the out-sourcing of war operations to Halliburton and Blackwater, it is the event itself and the forces behind it to which Hal Sisson's interrogative bespeaks. Her answer started out all right - she said, "First of all, I'm not so sure I would put anything past these people. It's just that with these conspiracy theories I feel that we're taking away all this energy that could be going toward other issues that are so important right now." Alarm bells started ringing in my head, I immediately thought to myself "female Chomsky." I've actually seen and read interviews where Noam Chomsky comes right out and says, "It's not important who is behind 9/11, there are so many other things these people are guilty of... other things are more important." or "it's just an Internet thing". Sorry Noam - I believe it is THE most important thing. My blood boils every day when I read a news piece about the War of Terror or anything to do with the Department of Homeland Criminals, or especially the frequent reports about another one or two hundred Iraqis dead or wounded.

You have the unmitigated gall to insinuate that it is not important when our own soldiers are giving their lives away based on this horrible lie? I'm sickened to think that some people can be so callously indifferent or morally bankrupt not to connect the obvious dots in this situation. Moreover, why should it be such a mental stretch for anyone to even imagine that the US government was complicit in 9/11 when we have so much declassified material showing their guilt in perpetrating such acts. That's why Hal Sisson's question is so relevant - because we know as a matter of historical fact that the Gulf of Tonkin and many others were false-flag operations, self-inflicted wounds - we know they are more than capable of it and it is a technique used by military powers since ancient times. This is not some ludicrous idea, and to pull out the old utility-knife catch phrase "conspiracy theory" and smear anybody who questions the official doctrine is not only offensive - it represents the shoddiest form of logic I can imagine.

You should have heard the crowd at that precise moment. As soon as Naomi said "conspiracy theories" there was a murmur of disapproval toward the questioner, it was like a bunch of trained monkeys who stand up all at once when the buzzer goes off - and when she wrapped all of us independently thinking individuals into a neat ball and drop-kicked us in the gonads with the following summation, "It's just that with these conspiracy theories I feel that we're taking away all this energy that could be going toward other issues that are so important right now" - the audience burst into applause. The mood was something like, "There, that should put to rest you 9/11 truth idiots, way to go Naomi - we are cognitively dissonant en masse." I was crestfallen at that moment when I saw first hand the results of some studies that show greater than 80% of the public are too apathetic and will just as soon swallow up the government's propaganda as think for themselves. Sure, we've got our Naomi Kleins and Noam Chomskys to stand just a little on one side of the gate while many followers believe they lead the vanguard against the controllers - but no way will they go that extra step and take a peek over that wall. I'm not saying she is employed by them or even necessarily conscious of it - perhaps within her own paradigm she resembles many who just can't imagine our leaders murdering some of us on purpose to further their agenda, and yet that's what war is all about. That's the part that is puzzling - she has no trouble expounding on the methodologies of torture and crisis manipulation by these people, but her natural curiosity and professional assiduousness stop short at the root causes of 9/11. Maybe she feels that if she touches that truth her days flying about doing book tours are over.

Naomi's worried about how much energy I've got. Little does she know I'm a seething mass of thermo-nuclear potential. I've got enough in me to listen to her build her arguments, present her thorough research, and draw together elements for her theories. And whoa - look at that, I've still got plenty left over to examine the various aspects of 9/11 - who da thunk? As well, since when is it up to you to decide what subject is deserving of my energy? How would you feel if someone just wrote off your entire theory by smearing it with a brush and saying, "it's just not important?"

Sorry Naomi, I'm disappointed - I still think you are great author with important, well presented information that everyone should be made aware of, but your inability to step over that line and deal with 9/11 is problematic to myself and others - this is precisely the difficulty we face when it comes to the wider population's suspension of disbelief regarding this issue. The reaction of that audience demonstrates so poignantly the struggle we face in bringing forth the truth about 9/11. Thanks for not tasing Hal.

Peter Zaza is a composer, artist and author living in Victoria BC Canada. casazaza@shaw.ca, casazaza.blogspot.com, vic911truth.org

Hal Sisson examines the Evidence Concerning the Destruction of the World Trade Center Friday October 26th, 7:30 pm, at St. John the Divine Church Lounge.

Column #3:
29% MLA pay increase

by Peter Verin

- Money replaces valuable relationships.

- Moneys' function is to obsess, distract and distort.

- Money's a symbolic abstraction that, applied, constitutes a false consciousness, breeds action-reaction, results in a vicious dog- eat- dog rat race and a terminal self- destruct of the planet and its resources.

- Without, on some level, striking a balance between acknowledging this present reality and acting upon it, without awareness of dysfunction and resisting/liberating that same false energy we've, to all intents and purposes, capitulated to conflict: classic good and evil scenario stripped to a moral vs. political arena.

- It's not necessary to choose, because the decision was made for us, as to which appears to be more important, the 29% MLA pay increase or the overtly political creepism that informs it.

- Herr Kampbell seeks to accomplish what his provincial predecessor, Bennett Jr. and federal Prime Minister Myron Baloney were unable to do, namely accede to a 3rd elected term: his chosen way is to spit in our collective faces or to self- destruct through this audacious gesture, reminiscent of Goebbel's 'if you tell a lie, tell a big one.'

He's become the consumate politician by pretending to embrace natives and the environment, as long as he can continue to place his economic stamp onto his ideological agenda, the 2 being virtually the same: our collective hallucination Premier, Gordo, manipulates reality to conform to HIS perception of reality; bottom-line money, like shell- game economics, unlike politics, IS a sum zero game.

- He cynically exploits the historical monopoly (bored game) that money enjoys over its captive subjects/programmed casualties: should we allow him and sympathizers to name the game indulged in, we should set the rules; failing that we should oppose predictably playing into the hands of and by the groundrules of announced adversaries!! Unless mistaken, to do nothing is to lose by default, little consolation in the face of an apparently huge provocation.

The Bathtub Test

It doesn't hurt to take a good look at yourself from time to time, and this should help get you started.

During a visit to the mental institution, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No." said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Ask A Herbalist – Colds and Flu

by James Christian, B.Sc., MNIMH, RH, Medical Herbalist - www.askaherbalist.ca

Dear James,

Are there any plants that can help me when I get sick with a Cold or the flu?

Steve, Victoria

Dear Steve,

As we see the days getting shorter and the leaves on the trees changing colour, we realize that summer is gone and winter is on its way. One of the unpleasant parts of the winter is that the common cold and flu are more likely to infect people. But what is the common cold and what can we do about it?

Throughout medical history, strength and vitality has been represented by warmth and fire. So as the name itself suggests, cold, an infection by a virus to cause the flu or the common cold, is seen to reduce the vitality of the individual infected. Once infected, symptoms include nausea, vomiting, fever (which is your body's way of trying to counteract the "cold") runny nose, coughing, aches and general fatigue. The viruses that cause our illness are around us all the time, but it is when we are weak or our reserves are depleted that we become vulnerable to them. But is there anything we can do to defend ourselves, or if we are already infected, is there anything we can do to fight it off more quickly? As a Herbalist, I can say definitely Yes!

Herbs to Use:

Herbal Medicine provides us with herbs of various actions that are beneficial in the treatment and prevention of the common cold or flu. Herbalists use plants with immune stimulating, decongestant, diaphoretic (warming to the body) and healing actions. Echinacea angustifolia and purpurea (Purple Coneflower) are both very effective at boosting the immune system of the individual. A good quality Echinacea should cause your tongue to tingle for about 5 to 10 minutes after oral administration of a liquid extract such as a tincture. Eupatorium perfoliatum (Boneset) is a great herb for dealing with most of the symptoms of a cold. It helps relieve aches in the joints, helps manage a fever and reduce congestion. Allium sativum (Garlic) is a great anti-viral herb. The best way to get its benefit is to eat raw cloves of garlic either on their own or in other foods. Sambucus nigra (Elderflower) is an amazing herb for dealing with colds and flu. This plant helps with congestion of the lungs and upper respiratory tract. Zingiber officinale (Ginger) and Cinnamonum zeylanicum (Cinnamon) are great warming herbs used to help the body's natural defense against a fever.

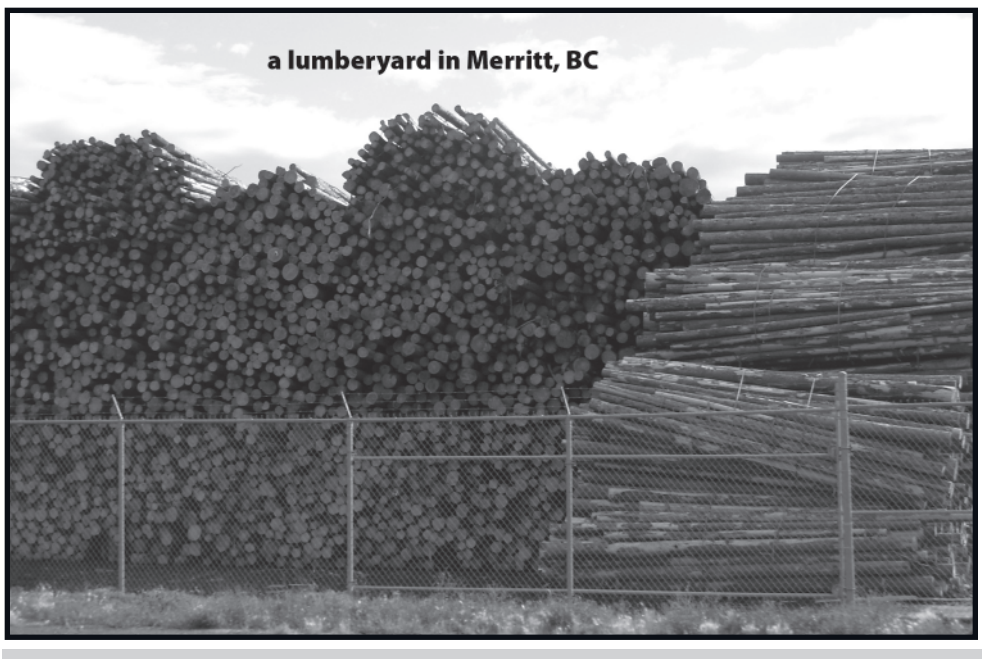
If you feel like you are coming down with a cold or flu, try having a strong tea made with fresh ground ginger and cinnamon. Grind an amount of each plant equal to the size of your thumbnail and let steep in hot water for 10 minutes, strain and drink up to 3 times per day. Also take a hot bath with some essential oils added to it such as Thyme, Eucalyptus or Peppermint to ease congestion and help you rest.

Lifestyle and Supplements:

As I mentioned earlier, the viruses that cause our colds and flu are always around us. It is important to stay healthy so that we are able to defend our bodies and avoid being sick all together. To do this, remember to eat healthy foods, drink plenty of water and get adequate rest. All too often in our busy lives we neglect to give ourselves proper rest. For supplements, use Vitamin C, Zinc (high in Pumpkin Seeds), B-complex and Vitamin A. Eat lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. Soup is very easy for your body to assimilate while it is weak, so hearty vegetable soups are great!

Every individual is different and different herbs may be required. For a more customized approach to your Cold or Flu, consult your local Medical Herbalist.

James Christian is a fully qualified Medical herbalist who runs an Organic Herbal Medicine Clinic and Dispensary at the James Bay Community Project. If you have any questions about Holistic Health and Healing Herbs, please feel free to email James at medicalherbalist@yahoo.ca, call 250-920-8351, or check the website - www.askaherbalist.ca. James has a sliding fee scale and offers discounts to students, seniors, and low-income individuals.



Briony Penn, and several hundred others, marched October 13th for an end to logging in ancient forests, and raw log exports.

PLASTIC, PLASTIC EVERYWHERE!

By Richard Boyce

I do a lot of hiking around the Oceanside area and it always amazes me, when at the end of a long series of logging roads or trails, I find garbage. Primarily plastic garbage. The most common are shopping bags, potato chip bags (plastic lined with aluminum), plastic used to hold aluminum cans together, car tires, and cigarette-pack-wrappers. Just take a look over the cliff on little mountain where the garbage has been piling up for years. Clean-up crews along the highway seem to be on endless duty picking up what people throw out of their cars. Littering is illegal and punishable by fine.

Most of these items are produced from petroleum, which has been refined, and then processed into products that take a very long time to disintegrate. Refining crude oil is a process whereby the most toxic and noxious chemicals are burned off into the atmosphere. A great deal of CO2 emissions are emitted prior to any oil products reaching consumers, these pollutants contribute to global warming by building on the green house gases effecting the planet's atmosphere.

What is really astounding is finding garbage bags, twist tied and full of house hold garbage, that someone has taken this much care and attention to dump at the end of a long road in the wilderness rather than take it to a transfer station or a dumpster. Even worse, I've witnessed people burning plastic in their campfires as well as in barrels to get rid of household trash. Sure, it may seem easy to toss plastic bags, plastic utensils, styrofoam plates, and other plastics into the fire but the toxic fumes do contribute to green-house effects in the atmosphere. Like the canary in the mine, many species of birds have been dying due to toxins in the air we breath.

Of course the best way to avoid problems associated with plastic is to reduce the amount of plastic we consume as individuals. An easy start is at the grocery store, where millions of plastic bags are given away free. In Europe the standard has always been for people to bring their own hardy bags to the grocery store to put their products into for the trip home.

As most tourists who have visited Europe will attest, if you have no bag with you the store will sell you one for a minimum charge of $0.50 per bag. As a result most Europeans provide their own bags, this has become the norm rather than the exception. If local grocery stores began to charge for every plastic or paper grocery bag how long would it be until everyone brought their own bags. Which grocery story will start this trend? Perhaps they need some encouragement from you, their loyal customers. Many stores already provide strong durable bags at a small price.

Fleece and other polyester clothing is now available made primarily from post consumer recycled plastic materials. After all polyester is merely plastic spun together to make threads, which are then woven together into garments. Buying these recycled cloths supports an industry that is using up those plastic bags we need to reuse. By extending the use of these plastics you are preventing more crude oil from being refined to make polyester thread, less toxins in the atmosphere, less plastic to disintegrate.

Plastic containers are turned into building materials, which are now available at your local lumberyard in the form of studs and other forms of structural products. The Regional District of Nanaimo and all local municipalities have adopted a zero waste strategy, which allows the public to include plastic containers in their blue box for recycling. Those very same blue boxes are made from recycled plastic. For collection rules and more information contact: www.rdn.bc.ca

It is a well-known fact that much of the CO2 emissions are produced from car engines burning gasoline, but there are many other ways that we use oil derivatives in our daily lives. Every drop of oil represents a landscape devastated by extraction, drops spilled along the way, gases emitted into the atmosphere in the refining process, and transportation costs including oil spills. Take care with how much plastic you consume and be careful how your deal with your garbage. If you would like to report illegal dumping contact local RCMP or the RDN toll free 1-877-607-4111.

Richard Boyce is a documentary filmmaker and photo-journalist who has spent his life on Vancouver Island. www.islandlens.blogspot.com

Internet might cure homelessness: Be selfish--help the homeless!

by Korky Day

Who caused our massive homelessness?

The mainstream political forces, especially under Ronald Reagan, conjured up the homeless problem "out of thin air" in the 1980s. It helped them to get elected and to divert attention from their other crimes. That "problem" and its alleged solution promoted his class interests, so similar interests in Canada and other countries copied his plan.

Reagan's campaign was simple: allege widespread scandalous welfare abuses, then restrict the welfare eligibility laws, and then simply refuse to give welfare even to many of those who still qualified. Then they bragged that they'd reduced the welfare rolls, as if those people cut off welfare had gotten jobs. Many of them, though, wandered the streets.

Most of the non-homeless masses have been fooled into thinking that circumstances outside a government's control had caused the homeless problem. In truth, the governments intentionally created all the increase in homelessness with their welfare cut-backs and emptying the mental hospitals.

In BC, it was the Social Credit and then the NDP governments, with the help of the Government of Canada, who created homelessness here. The BC Liberals simply are continuing that genocide of homeless people.

Why governments throw people onto the street instead of giving them welfare:

1. To neglect homeless people to death who, if they were not dying or barely clinging to life, might find time to vote against their rulers and to rebel politically otherwise.

2. To create a new class of nearly defenceless people, the homeless, who are blamed for their own plight, creating crime, hurting the economy, and spoiling the scenery. They are thus scapegoats, their existence creating great positive publicity for the rulers.

3. To frighten you home-owners and renters into feeling that you, too, might be punished with homelessness if you don't obey, act subservient to bosses and government authorities, and accept lower wages, less job security, and unsafe conditions.

4. To perpetuate the racket of giving an overly large proportion of government aid money to moderately well-paid social workers to "help" the poor instead of helping the poor directly.

5. To pre-occupy good-hearted middle-class and working-class people in charitable work which tries to keep the homeless alive--instead of removing from power the rulers who are perpetuating the problem.

6. To save avalanches of money for the government welfare budget. The opposite, though, happens to ordinary people's budgets, who bear the skyrocketing costs of break-ins, crowded emergency rooms, private guards, and ruined small businesses, especially in blighted areas (such as Chinatown and Gastown in Vancouver).

7. To bring in many legal and "illegal" immigrants, who are generally more compliant, to do the jobs that the homeless, indigenes, and other poor might have done.

8. To make First Nations people homeless so they are too busy just staying alive to defend their traditional territories against the greed of the government and their business friends.

9. To increase the illegal drug trade and the sex trade, which greatly profit some of the rich and powerful.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS WILL HELP YOU!

Monetary Benefits

1. Customers are more likely to enter your store if they don't have to step over sleeping human beings or walk around beggars and if they don't see hypodermic needles on the sidewalk. (The blight has spread to about 6 times as many blocks in Vancouver as 20 years ago.)

2. With businesses doing better in your city, including businesses serving tourists, everyone will prosper a little more.

3. There's a labour shortage. Your business might be able to hire some of the homeless, but first you want them cleaned up, fed, and rested. They need homes with a warm beds, plumbing, fridges, etc.

4. Some rescued homeless people could turn into your good customers.

5. Your business also might have less property damage, cleaning, and shoplifting. For your business, home, and vehicle, you might save money on guards, alarms, window bars, etc.

6. With business prospering, tax revenues go up, which means that those less able to pay tax should theoretically pay less.

7. Less of your tax money will be needed for police, courts, hospital emergency care, street cleaning, special services for the homeless, and burying people who don't have a family member who will pay. (The need for drug addiction treatment should go down, although we should actually demand that more be spent in order to treat the huge backlog.)

Health & Comfort

1. You in your "nice" neighbourhood will be safer from spreading, mutating diseases (AIDS, TB, hepatitis, flesh-eating disease) and infestations (rats, bedbugs, roaches, lice, fleas) if they don't have such great breeding opportunities in the blighted areas.

2. You less likely will be a victim of crime.

3. A formerly homeless person just might help you someday.

Intangible Benefits

1. You'll be proud that you helped re-institute the programme that ended homelessness: welfare in its old form or, if possible, in some newer, better form.

2. You'll no longer feel so helpless, depressed, disgusted, angry, afraid, or tearful from seeing homeless people.

3. You'll have little fear that you or someone you love might become homeless.

Why pick the homeless issue for a strike now?

In spite of being fooled in the past, the public can more readily understand and care about the homeless than most other issues. Most people are quite disturbed about the problem and feel a lot of compassion for the victims.

The solution is relatively simple and non-partisan, especially for those who can remember 20 years ago. Some can even remember the 1930s when the homeless problem was first solved to a great extent in Canada.

In BC, the simple initial solution is to re-adopt the welfare laws of 20 and 30 years ago. Then add a touch more compassion and money: an automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the welfare rates of that time.

That's all! We'd still have a poverty problem, but almost all the homeless would have roofs.

The only destitute homeless we had 20 years ago were in these 3 relatively small groups--refuseniks who did not even apply for welfare:

1. Runaway teens.

2. People who qualified for welfare, but did not apply for it--because of pride, stubbornness, ignorance, sloth, fear, insanity, principles, etc.

3. People hiding from the authorities because of an arrest warrant, a child-support order, etc.

Those 3 types of people might still be homeless after restored welfare. However, the rest, the vast majority of homeless people, would accept welfare if they could get it. Then they'd also be more able to join effective job preparation programmes and effective anti-drug rehabilitation. Anyway, they'd have homes again.

Now is the time for this issue! British Columbians are getting embarrassed for the world to be coming to the 2010 Olympics and seeing how heartlessly we let our homeless suffer and die in the streets, just like in the USA.

Some say that governments must build housing to solve the problem. Maybe so, but that will take years. None of the proposals ever suggest building housing for more than 5% of today's homeless.

With restored welfare, we can house all the homeless immediately in existing buildings. When innocent people are dying like flies is no time to wait for new, better housing.

How we organize the strike:

General strikes are notoriously rare in Canada. This proposal uses the Internet to overcome the usual crippling problems.

First, anti-poverty and anti-homelessness groups can announce this plan and post it on their Web sites. One can sign up the supporting groups and individuals.

We'll recruit support until we reach a pre-determined level in each category--enough to guarantee the strike's success. When those levels are reached, we announce the strike. Simple and nearly fool-proof!

The 11 supportive sectors and what each will do during the strike:

1. Individuals will be listed on the Web site, will speak at rallies, etc. They will include homeless, formerly homeless, or not; prominent or not.

2. Religious groups, activist groups, non-profit groups, charities, unelected political parties, etc. will organise publicity, rallies, demonstrations, occupations, squats, and camps for the homeless and their supporters--mostly on public property.

3. Elected officials will speak and filibuster for the homeless in parliaments, legislatures, city halls, etc. They will state in the Web list what they will do to support the homeless--perhaps refuse to do some of the routine government business.

4. Media owners and managers will devote lead stories to the strike. Writers and announcers will try to publish stories about the strike (rather than striking themselves).

5. Any Web site can add statements of support and prominent links on their home pages, etc.

6. The students, faculty, and/or administrations of all schools, public and private. They can organise their campus to strike or "unstrike" in ways of their choosing (which they'll state on the Web site support list).

7. Businesses will close for the strike or will "unstrike." Maybe pay taxes and fees into a trust account.

8. Non-union workers will support the strike, such as by wearing badges off the job and honouring picket lines (if they dare). However, we will not publish their names--in order to protect their jobs. We will not encourage anyone to risk their job, as the other sectors are much more helpful to a strike, anyway.

9. Unions.

a. Some unions will choose not to strike but will agree to "work to rule," "unstrike," or other help, such as symbolically and financially. This category includes unionised media and unionised essential workers--police, fire, etc. We'll publish how they each promise to show their support.

b. Some unions will choose to strike. Obviously this is the most important sector. We must have many unions in this category before the general strike can begin, probably at least a majority of the unionised workers in BC. The Web site will list all unions and their responses to our requests for their support.

10. We'll challenge all governmental bodies to strike or at least declare their support for the strike. That includes federal, provincial, and local government bodies. If we get a scattering of city councils, school boards, and appointed boards, etc., we'll be lucky, but it will be great for publicity and morale.

11. We'll ask the UN and other international bodies to support us.

Threshold numbers will be chosen in advance for each of those 11 categories. That will ensure that the strike will be so huge that the government will concede quickly, maybe even before it starts.

The best strike is a massive one-day successful strike.

In the 1980s we tried an escalating general strike in BC, starting with the teachers, but it failed. Everyone striking at once, organised like this, will be much more effective. Organising on the Internet, and organising more solidly, will be the crucial differences which will ensure our success this time.

After this strike succeeds, we'll have the enthusiasm to strike on other issues. Imagine one winnable general strike every year!

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_strike

Korky Day is a Vancouver writer-activist. He started in 1967 by picketing against racial discrimination in housing. He has often been poor and is creating a new Web site for discussion and conflict resolution. His previous website is www.korky.ca.

GENERAL STRIKE

Victoria Street Newz: Looking Back, Looking Forward Survey

Victoria Street Newz is half way through its fourth year of production and we think it's a good time to ask you to evaluate our past so we might successfully plan for our future.

Would you please contribute a few minutes of your time to complete this survey?

We divided the questionnaire into sections, some of which may not apply to you. Thank you - we sincerely appreciate your support, and look forward to serving you and the Victoria community as we move forward.

SECTION ONE: GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How often do you purchase or read the Victoria Street Newz?

___ Once a month ___ More than once a month ___ Occasionally ___ Seldom

2. Do you purchase the Victoria Street Newz through a vendor or by subscription? ___ Vendor ___ Subscription

3. Do you purchase the Victoria Street Newz from the same vendor from month to month? ___ Yes ___ No

4. Why do you read the Street Newz and/or support the vendors? *(please be advised we will be using these comments, anonymously, for fundraising purposes. Some suggestions: it's is an informative alternative media, it creates community, offers opportunities for personal success ...)*

5. Do you like the current format of the Victoria Street Newz or would you prefer a magazine-style format? __ As is ___ Magazine

6. Which parts of Victoria Street Newz do you like best? (check all that apply)

___ Social Justice ___ Environment/Health ___ Peace Articles ___ Opinion Pieces ___ Editorial

___ Community Resources ___ Street Muzings (poetry) ___ Profiles of or writings from the Street Community

___ Investigative Journalism ___ Poverty Analysis _ __ Human Interest Stories ___ Letters to the Editor

What else would you like us to include?:

7. Are there any regular writers whose work you particularly enjoy? Who? Why?

8. Have you ever thought about writing for Street Newz? What's stopping you?

9. Do you prefer long, in-depth articles, shorter pieces, or a combination of both?

10. Do you feel the Victoria Street Newz has a good balance of text and images? Can you suggest ways the format might improve?

11. In which neighbourhoods are you most likely to purchase the Victoria Street Newz?

___ Downtown ___ James Bay ___ Fernwood ___ Fairfield ___ Oak Bay

___ UVic ___ Gordon Head ___ Esquimalt ___ Vic West

___ Saanichton ___ Sidney ___ Western Communities Other: _____

12. Which of the following publications do you read?

___ Monday Magazine ___ Times Colonist ___ The Martlet ____ Nexus ___ Focus ___ The Watershed Sentinel ___ Victoria Newsgroup

13. Which of the above publications do you read most? What do you like most and least about your favourite choice?

19. Are you familiar with the Victoria Street Newz website, at relativenewz.ca? Comments?

20. Do you ever access services or products listed on the Street Newz supporters (advertising) page?

SECTION TWO: FOR POTENTIAL ADVERTISERS

Victoria's urban monthly, the Victoria Street Newz, is a community-based publication that offers limited advertising space. Because of our philosophy of social justice, human rights, environmental justice and non-violence, we seek advertising revenue from like-minded businesses, foundations, non-profit organizations and co-operatives.

16. Which category defines the nature of your organization?

___ Co-operative ___ Not-for-Profit Society ___ Foundation

___ Corporation ___ Small Business ___ Charity

17. Are you willing to provide a copy of your constitution, mission statement, or corporate philosophy to assist our screening process?

___ Yes ___ No

18. Would you please indicate any of the following options that attract your advertising investment?

___ Television ___ Radio ___ Newspapers ___ Internet

___ Magazines ___ Flyers ___ Yellow Pages Other _____

19. Would you briefly explain why you designate the largest percentage of your advertising investment to your favourite medium?

20. If you chose to advertise in the Victoria Street Newz, how frequently would you purchase advertising space?

___ Monthly ___ Every Two Months ___ Quarterly

___ Annual Special Events ___ Special Events Other _____

21. Would you provide the name, title, and contact information for the person responsible for securing advertising for your organization?

Name: Title:

E-Mail: Phone:

SECTION THREE: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

If you're willing - this data will provide us with an understanding of our audience and how we might improve our product to reach a larger audience. We will not share any of this information with anyone outside the Victoria Street Newz.

22. Name: Title:

E-Mail: Phone:

23. Would you indicate which category describes your current situation?

a) ___ Business Owner ___ Manager ___ Employee

b) ___ Non-Profit Executive ___ Manager ___ Employee

c) ___ Consultant ___ Self-Employed ___ Unemployed

24. How old are you?

___ 10 – 19 years old ___ 20 – 29 years old ___ 30 – 39 years old

___ 40 – 49 years old ___ 50 – 59 years old ___ 60 – 69 years old

___ 70 – 79 years old ___ 80 – 89 years old ___ 90+ years old

25. What is your annual income?

___ $0.00 - $19,999.00 ___ $20,000.00 - $39,999.00 ___ $40,000.00 - $59,999.00 ___ $60,000.00 - $79,999.00

___ $80,000.00 - $99,999.00 ___ $100,000.00+

26. Do you depend on government money to survive? If so, which source:

___ Welfare ___ Disability Pension ___ Old Age Pension Other: _____

26. Are you homeless? ___ Yes ___ No

If not, which Victoria neighbourhood do you live in?

If you're sending this from out of town, where do you live?

SECTION FOUR: CAN YOU HELP?

If you're able and willing, might you help us in one of the following areas? If so, please contact Janine at 383-5144 ext 0137 or streetnewz@islandnet.com. Or, be sure to provide your contact information:

1. **Outreach and Awareness** – we'd like to make sure people know about Street Newz, its mission and philosophy and the difference it's making in peoples' lives. Might you be willing to organize presentations, along with a Street Newz vendor or writer, for church groups, service providers, or other organizations (maybe the Chamber of Commerce or the Downtown Victoria Business Association)? If you hear about award competitions, will you nominate us?

2. **Expansion** – Victoria Street Newz has established a special relationship with the City of Victoria. Will you help us establish similar relationships in other municipalities? This would likely involve a presentation at a Town Council meeting with a request for permission to establish vendors in the municipality. It would also involve an attempt to recruit new vendors, perhaps from the shelters or food banks or from Our Place, to sell in those areas. We'd also like to expand to print more writing directly from the street. One idea is to put Street Newz mailboxes in the shelters or at the food banks or Our Place. Can you help with that?

3. **Fundraising** – Currently, Victoria Street Newz direct sales pay for the cost of printing the newspaper. The Co-ordinator (Janine Bandcroft) currently earns $700 a month for organizing and producing each monthly issue, writing grants, and doing a bunch of other alternative media work (including the Left Coast events e-list, a radio show at CFUV). We average $50-200 a month in subscription and donation monies. We're not a registered charity so we can't offer tax receipts and our grant funding is limited. Can you help by contacting charitable organizations and businesses and informing them of our 'volume subscription' plan, whereby their $600 (or whatever they offer) will purchase 18 copies of each newspaper (or a number equivalent to their donation amount) delivered to their door? Would you be willing and able to offer a monthly donation ($10 or $20 a month from a handful of people would help immensely)?

4. **Communications** - Street Newz ListServe – Are you interested in establishing and maintaining a place for discussion of poverty related issues?

Please return this survey to a Street Newz vendor,
or deliver it to our mailbox at 1027 Pandora Avenue, V8V 3P6

The Victoria Street Newz thanks you for your time and effort in completing this survey.

Some Food Resources

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW'S SOUP KITCHEN)
740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week.
Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

please call 383-5144 ext 0137 with any additions or changes

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY
973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am8pm, Sat 10am 4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

GOLDSTREAM FOOD BANK
761 Station Rd (Legion Basement), Langford, B.C. phone: 474-4443
1st three Tues & Weds of each month, 10 am - 2:30 pm. Closed 2nd wk of Dec.
Serving the Western Communities from View Royal to Metchosin

FOOD NOT BOMBS - a collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144, ext 1940
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring plastic containers for bowls, bags 4 produce. http://resist.ca/~fnb-victoria

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX
C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844
WorkLink Employment Society phone: 478-9525
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211
Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - $5.75
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually $4 & $2 -12 & under.
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance-Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. $3.25 & child 2.75.

MEALS ON WHEELS phone: 479-6900
For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors, health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests. Current cost of meals- $6.75. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH www.mustardseed.ca
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T,W,Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm M,W, F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children. Food bank is closed the week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food, friendship, counseling, and crisis intervention. Food hampers available. One visit/mth.

OUR PLACE (formerly the Open Door)
713 Johnson St., Victoria, BC V8W 1M8 phone: 385-2454
7am - 3 pm Monday to Friday, closed weekends
Victoria's 'Living Room' - a drop in centre with free sandwiches, doughnuts, coffee, tea, bread,, clothing room, counseling, referrals, sometimes produce & pet clinic.

SAINT SAVIOUR'S KITCHEN
310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773
Rainbow Kitchen for everyone, Mon, Weds, Thurs, Fris, 12 noon - 1:30 pm

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712
9 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:30 pm Mon-Friday, Tues aft for Women
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services. Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SALVATION ARMY, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)
2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday Friday, 9 am 3:30 pm
Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.
Extra shelter space only available in sub zero temperatures.

SIKH TEMPLE
Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door
Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER
1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169
Food bank open Tues & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Fri and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

UPPER ROOM SOCIETY
919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 45:30 pm
Meal pass costs $26 a month, or $1 at the door.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - 250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca.

Breakfast Club

First Saturday: Christ Church Cathedral at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall - 680 Courtney St., 7:45-9:30 am

Second Saturday: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am

Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10

Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786

Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Workers' Union at St. Andrew's Hall, 8-10 am

DAY WORKERS FOR HIRE

We provide dependable labour for the odd jobs that arise in your home, office, or business. All wages go directly to the workers.

101-749 Pandora, 388-9296

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 384-3396
Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 383-1951
Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 480-1408
Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 213-4444
Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 812-0490 winter only, various locations
Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 386-8282
Hill House - Women with children 479-3963
Sooke Transition House 642-2591 Women with or without children
Vic. Women's Transition House 385-6611 Women with or w/out kids
Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 386-7291 Women & kids
Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 382-1004
Margaret Laurence House 995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

Ritz Hotel - 710 Fort Street, 381-1868
Fairfield Hotel - 710 Cormorant St., 386-1621
York Hotel - 711 Johnson Street, 385-2544

please call 383-5144 ext 0137 with any additions or changes

Douglas Hotel - 1450 Douglas Street, 383-4157
Ocean Island Backpackers - 791 Pandora Avenue 385-1788
Turtle Refuge Backpackers - 1608 Quadra Street 386-4471
Vic.toria Human Exchange Society - 361- 2762, www.humanx.org
Extreme Outreach - men only, $350 + dep. No alcohol or drugs. 708-2064

Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services

BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities)
301- 3440 Douglas Street, 475-7550 www.bchousing.org

Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca

Capital. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities)
623 Fisgard, 388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing

Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing)
www.coolaid.org 826 Cormorant St. 356-2548

M'Akola Housing Society 384-1423

Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 385-2131

Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 356-2555

Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 380-2663

St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/

Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society #501-620 View, 384-3434

Housing Searches on the Internet

BC Housing Subsidized Housing List www.bchousing.org
Brown Bros. Property Management www.brownbros.com
BC Co-Operative Housing www.chf.bc.ca/
Camosun Off Campus Housing List http://www.myidealhome.com/ccss
David Burr Property Management www.davidburr.com
Off Campus Housing for students housing.uvic.ca/ads/index.php
www.homes4students.ca

Helpful Housing Hints

1. Add your name to the BC Housing list.
2. Add your name to the Coordinated Housing Registry.
3. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M'Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list. They can let you in, but you have to be listed with BC Housing first.

Some places to call for help

Action Committee of People with Disabilites - 926 View St., 383-4105
Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 2nd floor, 1250 Quadra, 727-3544
AIDS Vancouver Island: 1601 Blanshard St., 384-2366
Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 383-9151
Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 383-7744 (help), 383-0415 (off)
Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 385-1466
Cool-Aid Phone Message Service ($5/mth): 383-1977
Credit Counselling - 477-9998
Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 480-1342
Grief/Bereavement Counsel: Lorraine Jasmin, R.P.C., 1198 Goldstream, sliding scale
Lalli Care Clinic - Drug Info, Med. Review, Alt Health - 386-5100, www.lallicareclinic.ca
Men's Trauma Centre: 381-6367, #203-1420 Quadra St. www.menstrauma.ca
Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 480-1232
Problem Gambling Help Line - 1-888-795-6111
Prostitute Empowerment & Education (PEERS): 744 Fairview Rd., 388-5325
Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 595-8619
Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 384-3396
Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers (SOLID): 7-9 pm Weds, 1947 Cook
Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #415 - 620 View Street 361-3521
Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 384-3211 -- 231 Regina Ave V8Z 1J6
Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 213-4444
Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 480-1342
Youth-to-Youth Support Line - 24 hours. Confidential. 386-TALK, www.youthlines.ca

Kia Ora, Couz

I give you a Maori greeting, which can also mean "Thank-you," and "Good-bye." That's easy, eh!

Last month I was telling you about the history of the Pakeha (non-Maori) presence in New Zealand and the problems with the 1841 treaty that was signed by the Maori and the Brits. In spite of problems with the treaty, even today, it assumes that the Pakeha and the Maori are equal but both groups need guidelines so that they can work and live together as one nation. That's the good part of the treaty. Such an attitude on the part of our government to our natives here in Canada just doesn't seem to be happening, so far, in our treaty talks, say our native peoples.

When we were over in New Zealand, I was surprised to see how the Maori welcome strangers. The dancers sing loudly while they frown, look angry, and stick their tongues out. They wave spears and stamp their feet. The message is clear: "you are welcome here only if you are friendly and we remain in control of your visit." I chuckled to think that our west coast natives would probably consider such a welcome as very bad manners! Some of our west coast tribes put up a "welcoming totem" that has arms and hands outstretched to greet strangers. Good manners and honouring strangers traditionally rate high on their list of important teachings.

The Maoris appeared to be open, verbal, and up-front to visitors. I have found our natives to be quiet, reflective, and most polite when they come across a visitor on their land.

Maori influence is huge in New Zealand. They are employed in all sorts of jobs, not just service jobs. Their language and art work is reflected in place names and in beautifying their towns and cities. In 1987 New Zealand made the Maori language a second official language. Today it is even possible to send your child to an all-Maori speaking school. As both our families have married into Maori families, we can only assume that inter-marrying is fairly common as well.

The New Zealand government is structured so that there are a certain number of seats reserved for Maoris as part of a "proportional system" of government seats. The Maoris can also be elected to other seats in their legislature too.

Another big advantage for the Maoris over our natives here in Canada: they were never subjected to the Residential School experience. Some of us might argue: what's so wrong about going to a boarding school? Well, Couz, along with all the physical and sexual abuse that took place there, some little kids had to go off to school as early as kindergarten. When you are there for those very early formative years without your Mom and Dad with you, you cannot learn how to parent properly. Such deprivation is terrible for both children and parents. No wonder there is such depression and emotional problems stemming from those terrible years which lasted for many generations. I believe the last B.C. Residential School closed as late as the mid 70s on the west coast. We are talking about the present adult generation, Couz.

So, you ask, are the Maoris better off today than our native peoples? That's a hard question to answer, Couz. There is still dissatisfaction with their treaty and the amount of land allotted to them. We were told that in the city of Auckland, the Maoris there must be notified of any land sale before it can go through. The Maoris' Council then has the right to buy up that land for sale if they wish. I do not know if this situation is present anywhere else in New Zealand other than in Auckland, but surely, such rights will make a difference to the survival of their culture.

Maori leaders are very concerned for their youth. In spite of the recognition that the Maori culture is present and going to endure, teens still have a high rate of drug addiction. Also, the drop-out rate is twice the Pakeha rate. There is concern among the Maori elders that the young people are not interested in their cultural heritage.

My own thoughts are that Maori young people face a greater struggle than the non-native trying to understand what their parents and the extended family adult members expect of them. Their culture says one thing but the dominant culture says something else: the marketplace is what is really important. Older people say one thing, but advertising and the media say something else. The Maori, like First Nations peoples all over the world, say that love and support for the family--extended family too--are more important than material things. Yet, the marketplace says that we must work, work, work so that we can buy, buy, buy. Family values come second, Couz.

Why do we worship the marketplace? What really matters at the end of the day?

Jennifer and her husband live in Victoria today. She is a healthy, active senior who enjoys writing volunteer articles for various publications.

Contained

by Brian Mason

Let's look at limits – as in limits to economic and population growth, or to the growth of cities. Our liberal-capitalist democracies are based on the principle of individual freedom (hemmed in, of course, by numbing propaganda from corporate media and the straight-jacket of consumer culture) coupled with the economic object of endless growth. In other words, no limits. Recognizing limits, on the other hand, means upholding values like stability, community and moderation.

Garrett Hardin's (in)famous 1968 essay "The Tragedy of the Commons" bluntly described the dangers of operating as if there were no limits in an unmanaged, unowned commons. His real concern was with the problems inherent in unchecked human population growth – problems which, for Hardin, had no technical solution.

When a place is full, it's full; we don't question it. Why, then, do we refuse to acknowledge the need to set limits to population and economic growth, and the growth of cities?

His essay relied on the logic of "lifeboat ethics," where helping those struggling outside your lifeboat, such as by bringing them onboard, would jeopardize the well-being of everybody, especially your own. It led him to argue against developing countries' providing aid to the starving peoples of Africa and Asia. Doing so would only serve to increase human population overall, thereby threatening average well-being and increasing misery (in the double sense of there being less to go around and more stress placed on the earth).

A ruthless utilitarian calculus of ultimate consequences underscored Hardin's ethics: choose either the greatest misery for a great number or the greatest happiness for a smaller, optimal number. How, he asked, can we legislate temperance or set limits? In modern welfare states, "to couple the concept of freedom to breed with the belief that everyone born has an equal right to the commons is to lock the world into a tragic course of action," according to Hardin.

His solution was a managed commons: mutual coercion mutually agreed upon – with tight borders between nations. It assigned to the preservation of community a higher value than the protection of individual freedoms, a decidedly illiberal approach. For Hardin, size and scale mattered. What we could get away with when there were only half a billion of us (which we were in about the year 1700) quickly leads to ruin when population soars. But in today's world of free trade, globalisation, libertarian capital markets, the internet, and the cult of the individual, anyone suggesting there should be coerced limits is regarded at best as a crank, or worse as downright racist and elitist. Hardin certainly was.

Yet his analysis, if not his solutions, of the tragedy of the commons applies directly to our environmental crises of today. It's still in no single person's best interest – nor in any single city's or nation's – to be among the first to drastically reduce his or her levels of consumption and pollution while the rest of civilization (that is, every other user of the commons) carries on unchecked. Neither do broad appeals to reason or guilt help.

Hardin's controversial ethics – and they were controversial because they touched the essential nerve of human survival instincts – deserve a reasoned revisit. His type of doomsday thinking was quietly overtaken by a more palatable, slowly growing wave of United Nations conferences and initiatives on the environment, one of which, the UN World Commission on Environment and Development, defined and championed the notion of "sustainable development" in the mid 1980s. Sustainable (perpetual) development seemed to offer humans the opportunity to endlessly devour earth's resources. Its new "feel good" formula for economic growth factored in both altruism and greed to project nice, maintainable levels of living for more and more people. It was truly new mathematics, a slowly-realizable infinity of plenty in a finite world. No wonder everybody got confused. Sustainable development, as a result, has come to mean anything Wal-Mart, the World Bank and the Green Party want it to mean.

However, when we encounter limits and capacities elsewhere in our daily lives, we accept them as sensible, even normal restrictions. We have speed limits. There are maximum occupancy limits for planes, buses, elevators, stadiums, theatres, ferries, meeting rooms, hotels – and even for the West Coast Trail. When a place is full, it's full; we don't question it. Why, then, do we refuse to acknowledge the need to set limits to population and economic growth, and the growth of cities?

That great generalist thinker, Lewis Mumford, so wise, had this to say nearly sixty years ago: "the control of quantity has become one of the dominant moral problems of our age." For Mumford, the growth of cities (not to mention the growth of technological, financial, bureaucratic and military power) must be subject to limits. Failure to set and enforce limits leads inevitably to urban decay, disorder, and disintegration. His warnings, alas, were not heeded, which make his sage counsel of more urgent import today than ever before. As Mumford foretold, we have ended up with more and more of worse and worse in our cities and civilisation.

One town in southern Alberta, Okotoks, with a population of 16,000, has decided it will not grow beyond the carrying capacity of the Sheep River, which supplies its drinking water and carries away its effluent. Okotoks has defined its population capacity as 25,000 to 30,000 people. Now, defining a river's carrying capacity when situated down or upstream from other users is an interesting proposition – and maybe it can't be enforced – but it's a step towards recognizing that places have limits. It at least opens the conversation, in the heart of burgeoning, wildly-rich, resource-plundering Alberta, no less.

Contrast the civic attitude of Okotoks with that of the politicians in the Capital Regional District. Here, all growth is considered good growth, and the more the better. Another large watershed has had to be purchased to meet our growing water needs, agricultural land is quickly disappearing into suburban sprawl (Vancouver Island now is able to produce only about 5% of its food needs, down from nearly 90% about one hundred years ago), traffic is choking us, and electricity generation is nearing capacity. And still no discussion of limits nor even of meaningful regional planning.

We won't be saved by applying more technology, more roads, or more statistical projections, by more re-zoning applications or another housing development in Langford. We can't grow ourselves out of problems that originate in the very consequences of growth itself. There are limits, whether we choose to acknowledge them or not.

Submitted by Brian Mason, a writer and philosopher living in James Bay.

STREET MUZINGS

WAR

Down by the river in the deep grass,
Columns of ants solemnly pass
Licking their wounds, lugging their dead.
The battle was lost. To-day they bled.

Over the top with the dawn's first rays,
They charged through the mist and foggy haze;
They yelled and screamed as their banners flew;
And crimson grew the morning's dew.

Shoulder to shoulder they charged at first;
Bolder and bolder but with every burst
Of enemy fire their ranks were thinned;
Soon they were down and thoroughly pinned.

Moans from the dying couldn't be heard.
Cries from the wounded, too were blurred,
And medics with stretchers at the trail
Had never seen gore on such a scale.

They fought for a knoll some half-mile wide;
They fought knowing God was on their side;
And as they fought and saw comrades fall,
They still paid heed to that rallying call.

"To arms! To arms! And dash the foe down!
"To arms! To arms! We must save our town!
" Question our manhood if you dare!
"We'll fight to the death fair and square!"

Newspaper headlines proclaimed aloud,
"OUR TROOPS ARE THRASHING THAT SORRY CROWD!"

War correspondents with truth to tell,
Threatened with banishment straight to hell
Should ever their stories tell it straight
That battles were fought beyond Hell's gate,

Struggled and strived so desperately
To get the news home and censor free;
But government men with conscience dead,
Attacked each wire with the blackest lead.

What of the publishers of our press,
What did THEY say of this sorry mess?
Most were concerned about revenue
And some of charges of treason, too.

For Government claimed it was a crime
To freely speak of the gore and grime
That devoured our men, yes, drowned them, too.
Of that higher plain, they would eschew.

Over the fence by her garden gate,
Mrs. McKenzie spoke with Kate,
Her neighbour of almost thirty years.
And as she spoke, she expressed her fears.

What if her THIRD son should die as well
In some foreign land, some foreign hell,
And what would she have to assuage her grief,
What succour lies in the strong belief:

No nobler death can possibly be;
Die for one's country across the sea!

Kate stood there frozen. What could she say
To help her neighbour this blackest day?
And what of herself with husband, Tom.
Will he be smashed by some airborne bomb?

Up in his office, he strode the floor
Striving to think of something more
That he could say to gain precedent:
Money for guns is money well spent!

What should he say to the Minister?
Bribe him? Corrupt him? All sinister.
The shares in his firm are on the rise
The holders of same would agonize
If funds invested should turn to dust.

This government sale: A simple must!

Firm on the floor of the Parliament
The Minister spoke with grave intent,
"More troops we must have, more guns as well,
If we are to hear victory's bell."

"Nay!" came the shouts from the opposite side.
"Already this war has spread far too wide
"The fighting MUST stop and talks begun,
"No more killing of a mother's son."

The talks raged on through morning and night
With no solution at all in sight,
For many there were stood firm and fast
"Our country first!" no matter the past.

And as they wrestled with wounded and dead,
A soldier ant, with a shake of his head,
Pondered aloud, "Why do we do it?
"Another dispute, again we blew it!

"Here in the park with picnics galore,
"Why can't we share and stop all this gore?
"Instead it seems we must always fight.
"Our's is the colony with the right!

"But that is wrong and it must be learned,
"Or the whole ant race will be burned."

by Don Parker September, 2002 Don is a man of many interests. He is an activist with the Council of Canadians, a keen believer of honesty in government, a flying member of the York Soaring Association, a world traveler via passenger-carrying ocean freighters, and an ardent photographer, to say nothing of his creative writing.

Dedicated to people who have committed suicide and to people who have had the courage to phone 9-1-1 and recover.

The Blue Water Well

I was born in a hollow,
a red chinked shell,
Splattered with ink,
From a blank ink well.
I was in a prison,
A cell with thick rails,
Like a piano out of harmony,
Closed with black keys nailed.
The key was lost,
in a dark interlude,
A blood stained cross,
No water, no food,
The cold bench I sat on,
the stench made me swell,
Waiting, waiting,
For the blue water well.
A glimmer appeared,
A breath in the void,
The door opened,
Sliced, by a razor,
Sharp, releasing the cord.
My safe heart beat,
Like spring in flight,
A new light, a blue light,
From a sky blue water well.
No one could take away,
The freedom I dwelled.

Isabelle Best

Autumn Splendour

It's that colourful time of the year once more with vibrant colours in God's exquisite showcase of colours forevermore.

The leaves are falling mysteriously and abundantly like in a haunting autumn song.

The kids are bawling because the little darlings are back in school and they have to do so good for Mom and Dad in their grades as autumn points its brilliant shades.

The Big Summer meltdown has become God's colourful showdown. And in the country the fervent farmers are getting ready for the big hoedown for the harvest is ready and their work is steady.

But look at that skittish squirrel, he's no fool as he gathers his supply when the weather gets cool.

In the cities and towns there is a hum of activity and excitement amid the scarlets and the browns.

Young and old lovers walk hand in hand and then embrace as families get ready to say grace and give thanks to God the master painter as he paints the season's fabulous fall face.

© Mark Idczak, Sept 14 2007

Fan Tan Alley

pedlars of God's medicine
used the narrows
to slip from the shackles
of open racism
to meet the demand, the need
moving product and cash
between the 18 warehouses
dotted along the Old Vic core where
tabs behind the counter listed
opium debt alongside
rice, tea and poultry.
i love to think
of this snotty little Tweed port
as it was then -
fat, white coppers fumbling to arrest
the golden gateway tide
of a drug
the English went to war
to keep flowing.

j. fisher

Bushtit Family Group in Vancouver's Stanley Park.
Photo by Peter Woods - www.stanleyparkexplorer.ca

Holiday Takes a Death

by C. L. Cook

In the old film, Death, smitten with love for one he's bound to take away takes a holiday instead, tarrying to woo his paramour and ignore his duties. You see, Death is sick and tired of death. Seasonally dressed in the curling leaves of Autumn, Death recently visited my door too, bringing with it not the tragic, chilling aura of interment, but strangely the chance for just the rest I'd needed.

For ten years now, I've beavered away, pounding my typewriter keys in outraged moral indignation at the venality and wonton bloodlust of the masters of the world. It has been an effort to recruit support, and to let those red-handed criminals posing as statesmen and stateswomen know there were people around onto their game, and that a history of their infamy, however marginalized, was being recorded and disseminated. Those seeds of knowledge, dragon's teeth, are dispersed through the agency of technology, technology in the form of the World Wide Web, or more simply, the Net.

It's a full time job, but no profession. Money is a rare commodity in this field; the thousands of hours spent researching and writing are by necessity funded by day jobs of various sorts, and all depends on access, access to an information stream that is neither free, nor free-flowing. There are dams, and there are locks, and there are gate-keepers, and there are trolls beneath the bridges crossing the internet river. There are also myriad lurkers, and workers protecting the perpetrators of the disasters occurring throughout the world; their job is to keep damning revelations in shadow, beyond the margins, regardless of the methods this requires.

Impunity

Much as "private contractors" bring death to Iraq and elsewhere, their murders going unpunished and often unreported, the cyber-mercenaries too enjoy protection from the law. It is illegal to hack into someone's system and maliciously plant bugs and destructive computer code - for you and me - but these dark operatives know neither retribution, nor fear of comeuppance. They are tacitly granted free reign to practice their purposeful mischief, bringing down the freedom to see and read and to speak, via the internet, of the perceived enemies of their masters; as indeed they recently managed to do to my site, Pacific Free Press.

PFP launched last February, and since has climbed the long slope of net recognition to become, according to web raters, Technorati, one of the top 30,000 websites in the world. Since its debut, I've posted more than fifteen hundred articles, all dealing with the issues of peace denied, justice belayed, and sytemic environmental disaster ignored. The site is just one of a network of some seventeen sites largely devoted to the same goals: making available the news of the day, and making people aware, as best we can, of the urgent necessity for immediate ameliorative action.

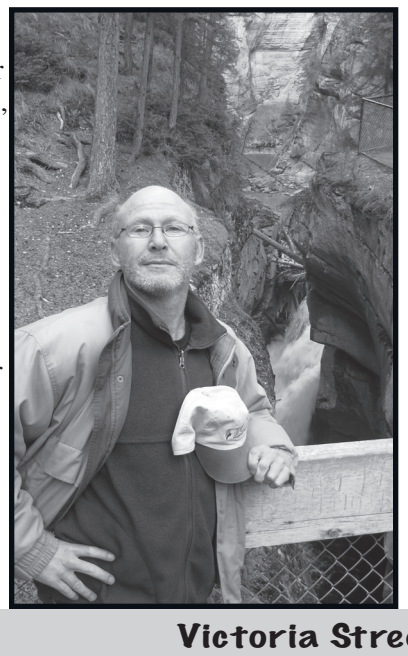
A shrieking canary in the figurative coal mine of our times, Pacific Free Press has fought hard for the attention of the diggers, trying to waylay what seems a certain course to collective calamity. Uncomfortable truths for all to be sure, but downright nettlesome to the prospects for those few that profit the dismal demise effecting the many caught in the crucible of the new world project. So, last week the canary was killed in its cage, and silence remains yet.

Dead air is what they call it in radio... that overlong pause... that leaves you hanging in the dark... like a hooded man waiting for the next electric shock to come...

It's unnerving at first; you become accustomed in a mechanical way to the rhythms of production, and when it's suddenly ceased there's the eerie sensation of total silence; the white noise stopped, the mind scurries for a familiar purchase in an unrecognized mindscape. After frantic attempts to reinstate the system fail, acceptance finally comes as grace: Que sera, sera; and then, peace. It's not the peaceful bliss of the ignorant, but the sense of powerlessness in the face of greater circumstance - the slave's freedom.

The death of my site has proved to remove the blinders from mine eyes. And lo, I am free to see at last; to see at last, thank Goddess almighty, I see at last!

As a lucid dreamer, soaring over cyberspace, I see the troll, huddled beneath his bridge, anonymous, unloved, scared and desperate to be heard. I see the cynics, employing their cunning in plots to bring down the opponents of their paymasters, and I see the caved millions, seduced by flickering games and base relief from their existential tedium. And I see it's all unreal, all just made of shadow and light.



Yes, Pacific Free Press will be free again to push over the apple carts of those grown comfortable in their craven criminality. And yes, we'll be attacked and doubtless shut down again too. But death in cyberspace is a different sort of cessation, and I for one have been glad for the holiday.

Chris Cook is managing editor for PFP. You can find us at www.pacificfreepress.com fighting merrily alongside sister sites, www.atlanticfreepress.com, www.ingmarlee.com, and www.chris-floyd.com for your kind attention.

UPDATE: The Committee to End Homelessness in Victoria

from Phil Lyons

This committee has been in existence for a couple of years now. Its' mission is to get the voices of the homeless heard. It was lost in local uproar triggered by the first action of the committee, which led to Craig occupying the Janion building with the logistical support of the committee. This got the attention of the community. There began to be some real movement on the issue of local homelessness.

Rose Henry has been our most loyal member and she is increasingly being seen as a reliable spokesperson by the street along with political and business players. We have been able to get her on the Settlement Project organizing group and she has used her influence to get them to subsidize our monthly "Power Lunches" for 2-300 homeless people at Our Place (11 am; Nov 13, Dec 11). This is an effort to recruit more homeless for our committee - it is not a charity meal programme. We talk with people about what they see as the real problems of homelessness and what they would like to see as solutions for these problems and then forward these messages to the people doing the planning.

We are also getting more attention from the CRD process of the 10 Year Strategic plan and Rose has been invited to be on this planning group as well. They are also offering the opportunity to have homeless reps. on their working groups.

We have had some difficulty in recruiting homeless folk to attend our Wednesday night regular meetings at 7 p.m. at the Silver Threads (at Douglas and Herald). The need to chase a bed for the night dominates their agenda. Our first priority is to get homeless people to speak for themselves. If you are homeless. please come out to our Wed. meetings and take part in the planning for our actions and interventions.

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For information about reaching the Street Newz audience, contact us at streetnewz@islandnet.com or 383-5144 ext 0137

SOME MORE STREET NEWZ FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Thanks to Vancouver's Pivot Legal Society, who have invited Street Newz to participate in their annual fundraiser through sales of a calendar:

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Victoria Street Newz

November circ: 1800

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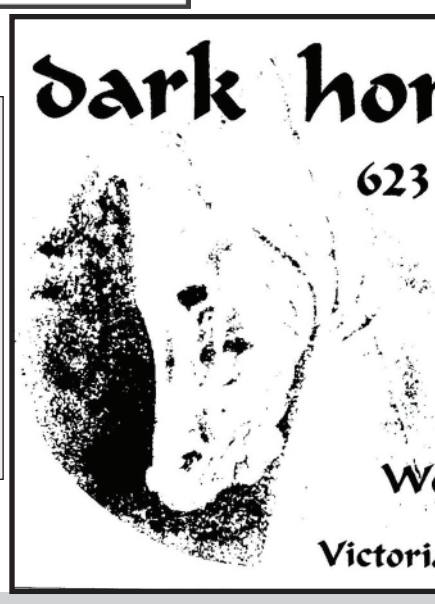
thanks for the work you are doing it's people like you that make it worthwhile (or able) for me to go on

anonymous

dark horse books



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Street Newz is sold by a very important team of licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspapers for $.50 each, and resell them by donation, to encourage a sliding-scale economy that's inclusive and offers people a choice.

Wanna Help?

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Janine at 383-5144 ext 0137 or drop in to the Solstice Cafe (529 Pandora) most Fridays 10-noon.

Maybe you can help

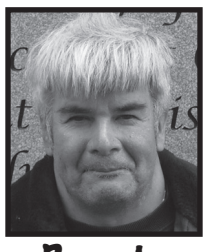
* with office stuff?
* with outreach to community and church groups?

Sean

Debbie

Ken

Shirley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Where Your Money Goes

Vendors pay 50 cents for each Street Newz. Together, this pays for the Street Newz printing costs.

Anything you give, in excess of 50 cents, goes directly to the low income vendor who works to distribute the paper.

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ear muffs, toques, gloves, scarves, warm socks, holeless boots, long johns, umbrellas

Behind the Scenez

Street Newz is a project of the Bread and Roses Collective - a registered not-for profit society. Its purpose is to support educational and employment opportunities for socially disadvantaged and/or economically marginalized people, provide information about and support community organizations concerned with the relief of poverty and the promotion of public education, and support and encourage community based artistic endeavours that enhance our collective quality of life.

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Fundraising Newz

In addition to the Victoria Street Newz, I (Janine) publish the 'Left Coast' - a weekly email e-newsletter containing information about peace, environment,and justice event information. To subscribe (it's free) send email to streetnewz@islandnet.com.

I also produce a radio show at CFUV, the 'Winds of Change', alternating Thursdays from 11-noon.

The Street Newz pays me $700 a month, from grant, subscription, advertising, and donation money we collect through the non-profit Bread and Roses Collective.

I'm in the process of writing a business plan and searching for grant applications. Grants typically take several months to finalize and are never a guarantee.

If you appreciate alternative media, and haven't donated lately, please consider supporting this independent, unembedded work by buying a calendar (see pg 15), subscribing, or donating. Gifts & services & discounts are also appreciated.

Thanks for your support!

THE SNZ BOOKS

	Aug	Sept	Oct
Street Newz Revenue			
Paper Sales (from vendors)	600.00	570.00	600.00
Donations	130.00	131.00	140.00
Gifts (incl in-kind)	200.00	225.00	80.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	20.00
Subscriptions	35.00	280.00	105.00
Bread & Roses Donation	1036.20	700.00	700.00
Total Street Newz Revenue	2001.20	1906.00	1645.00
Street Newz Expenses			
Salaries	700.00	700.00	700.00
Paper & Printing Costs	571.34	571.34	571.34
Office expenses/website	36.00	200.00	55.84
Postage	84.56	85.41	99.13
Vendor t-shirts	336.20	0.00	0.00
Total Street Newz Expenses	1728.10	1556.75	1426.31
Street Newz	*273.10*	*349.25*	*218.69*
Bread & Roses Revenue			
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bread & Roses Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bread & Roses Expenses			
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	40.50	40.50	40.50
Street Newz Donation	1036.20	700.00	700.00
Total Bread & Roses Expenses	1076.70	740.50	740.50
Bread & Roses	*-1076.70*	*-740.50*	*-740.50*
Consolidated Ttl (Street Newz + B&R)	-803.60	-391.25	-521.81
Bread & Roses Bank Balance	2846.18	2076.48	2152.72

A HUGE THANK YOU !!

1800 November Street Newzes are brought to you by:

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Vicki Munch, Alison Acker, Ellie Nichol, James Christian

With Special thanks to:
John Chomyn and all the vendors and writers, the Bread and Roses Collective, Colin Dower, Kelly Newhook, John Ede, Hendrik de Pagter, the Raging Grannies, Ingmar Lee

And anyone I may have forgotten - thanks, it wouldn't be the same without you.

International Affiliation

Victoria Street Newz is a proud member of the North American Street Newspaper Association and the International Network of Street Papers. The mission of NASNA is to support a street newspaper movement that creates and upholds journalistic and ethical standards while promoting self-help and empowerment among people living in poverty. INSP is an umbrella organization that provides a consultancy service for its partner papers and advises on the setting up of new street papers and supports initiatives for marginalized people. Visit NASNA at www.nasna.org or the INSP at www.street-papers.org.

TO PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT

Street Newz does not have charitable status, so we can't issue tax receipts.
We do, however, offer various subscription options:

Individual: $35/yr
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$600/yr for 18 monthly newspapers
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While Street Newz vendors appreciate your direct purchases, subscriptions and donations help offset production costs.

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